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URBAN DISTRICT OF BLETCHLEY

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# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER

of

HEALTH

for the year

1960





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*Chairman of the Council* : Councillor Mrs. D. J. RAMSBOTHAM

## PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

*Chairman* : Councillor C. G. O. CLARKE

*Councillors* : L. COWLEY, R. FISHER, M. TOMPKINS,  
W. GRAVER, G. LUMB, Mrs. D. J. RAMSBOTHAM

## PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

*Medical Officer of Health* :

D. H. WALDRON, O.B.E., M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M., & H., COL.I.M.S. (RETD.)

*(The Medical Officer of Health is also M.O.H. for Buckingham M.B., the Urban Districts of Linslade, Newport Pagnell and Wolverton, the Rural Districts of Buckingham, Newport Pagnell and Wing, Area M.O. for North Bucks and Divisional M.O. for the North Bucks Division and the Buckingham and Winslow District.)*

*Deputy Medical Officer of Health* :

F. O'ROURKE, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., D.I.H.,

*Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector* :

J. F. SMITHIE, O.B.E., M.I.MUN.E., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

*Additional Public Health Inspector* :

N. J. ADAMS, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.



# To the Chairman and Councillors of the Urban District of Bletchley

*June 10th, 1961.*

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Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1960.

The Birth Rate, although slightly below that for 1959, still remains at a satisfactory high level.

The Death Rate remains at a low level and is four points less than that for the rest of the country. The principal killers were again the heart diseases and cancer. They accounted for 80 of the total of 126 deaths.

The Infantile Mortality Rate shows a satisfactory drop from the previous year. There were five deaths in this group compared with eight the previous year.

Once again I should like to record another year of cordial co-operation with your Clerk, your Surveyor and Chief Health Inspector and their staffs.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

D. H. WALDRON.

## SECTION A

### VITAL STATISTICS

				1959	1960
Area (in acres)	...	...	...	4456	4459
Population	...	...	...	15440	16,680
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	4691	4,926
Rateable Value (1st April)	...	...	...	£248,683	£261,394
Rate per £1	...	...	...	23/-	23/-
Sum represented by 1d. Rate	...	...	...	£1,040	£1,100

### BIRTHS :

Legitimate	...	...	...	Males	164	159
				Females	147	162
Illegitimate	...	...	...	Males	4	7
				Females	6	7
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	...	...	...		20.8	20.1
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population—						
Bucks County	...	...	...		17.6	18.6
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population—						
England and Wales	...	...	...		16.5	17.1
Still Births	...	...	...	Males	2	3
				Females	1	5

### DEATHS :

				Males	62	67
				Females	49	59
Death Rate per 1,000 Population	...	...	...		7.2	7.6
Death Rate per 1,000 Population—						
Bucks County	...	...	...		9.7	9.7
Death Rate per 1,000 Population—						
England and Wales	...	...	...		11.6	11.5
Maternal Mortality	...	...	...		Nil	Nil
Maternal Mortality — England and						
Wales	...	...	...		0.38	0.39
Maternal Mortality—Bucks County	...	...	...		0.25	0.11

# INFANTILE MORTALITY :

	1959	1960
Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births ... ..	24.9	14.9
Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births Bucks County ...	18.4	19.8
Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births England & Wales	22.0	21.7

# PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH :

	1959			1960		
	M	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tuberculosis, other ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meningococcal Infections ...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cancer ... ..	13	14	27	15	6	21
Leukaemia ... ..	0	0	0	0	1	1
Diabetes ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cerebral Haemorrhage ... ..	2	6	8	4	8	12
Heart Disease ... ..	21	12	33	19	28	47
Other Circulatory Diseases ...	2	3	5	4	1	5
Influenza ... ..	0	1	1	0	0	0
Pneumonia ... ..	5	2	7	7	1	8
Bronchitis ... ..	4	2	6	7	0	7
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	0	1	1	2	0	2
Digestive Diseases ... ..	2	0	2	1	0	1
Nephritis ... ..	1	0	1	1	1	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate ... ..	2	0	2	0	0	0
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	0	0	0	0	0	0
Congenital Causes ... ..	0	0	0	0	1	1
Accidents ... ..	6	2	8	3	5	8
Suicide ... ..	0	0	0	1	0	1
All Other Causes ... ..	4	6	10	3	7	10
	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	62	49	111	67	59	126

## SECTION B

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

#### 1. LABORATORY SERVICES

The bacteriological work of the District has been carried out by the Public Health Laboratories at Bedford and Aylesbury. Samples of Water and Sewage for chemical analysis are sent to London.

#### 2. AMBULANCE SERVICES

These services are administered by the County Council. An Ambulance Station with four Ambulances, one Sitting Case Car, 2 Utilicons and two Buses has been established in the Town which has dealt satisfactorily with all general cases including accidents.

#### 3. NURSING FACILITIES

As in previous years the District Nurses carried on their very excellent and noble work.

#### 4. CLINICS

(a) Maternity and Child Welfare: Weekly Clinics were held in the Clinic in Bletchley Road and fortnightly clinics in the Methodist Church, Warwick Road. The voluntary committees and health visitors attended each time and a doctor once a fortnight. The total number of attendances during the year by children was 2,724.

A new modern Child Welfare Clinic is in course of erection in the Rickley Lane area and it is hoped to have this completed and in use by the autumn.

The ladies of the voluntary committees have again to be thanked for giving so much of their time to this work.

(b) Chest Clinic: This clinic continues to do excellent work. It is a self-contained unit complete with X-ray apparatus, etc., and is under the personal supervision of the County Chest Physician. Sessions are held weekly at the Clinic, Bletchley Road.

(c) Physiotherapy Clinic: This Clinic, which is under the aegis of the British Red Cross Society performed another year of excellent service to the public.

(d) Ophthalmic Clinic: An ophthalmic surgeon and an orthoptist hold weekly clinics at Bletchley Road. In addition there is a special session on the first Saturday of each month for school children.

(e) Dermatological Clinic: A specialist in skin diseases attends twice monthly.

(f) Dental Clinic: This clinic continues to do very good work amongst the school children. A full time dental surgeon attends.



(g) Toddlers' Clinic : Due to increased work at the Child Welfare Clinic a special clinic was instituted for the toddlers. This is held on the fourth Friday of each month.

(h) Health Visiting : Three whole time Health Visitors have been appointed to the Bletchley area and they are doing excellent work.

(i) Speech Therapy : A qualified Speech Therapist attends weekly and is doing very excellent work among school children.

(j) Care of the Blind : The Home Teacher for the Blind has her headquarters at Bletchley Road Clinic, and attends there weekly.

(k) Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic : Weekly sessions are held and are attended by a specialist from Aylesbury.

At last the Regional Hospital Board have provided the long awaited Diagnostic and Outpatient Clinic.

This is now functioning well and in addition to Specialists in Ear Nose and Throat, Dermatology, Ophthalmology and Chest diseases who were already holding sessions in the Bletchley Road Clinic, Specialists in General Surgery, Orthopaedic Surgery, General Medicine, Gynaecology, Plastic Surgery, Paediatrics, and Psychiatry now attend.

It is proving a great boon to the town and has saved many a weary journey to the outpatient department at Aylesbury.

The Regional Hospital Board have agreed that an extension in the Maternity Services for the area is essential, so I hope we will not have to wait too long for practical evidence that such a necessary extension is being put into effect.

## 5. HOSPITALS

The following hospitals served the area :—

Aylesbury Isolation Hospital  
Bedford General Hospital  
Creaton Sanatorium  
London Hospitals  
Northampton General  
Royal Bucks Hospital  
St. John's Hospital, Stone  
Slade Hospital, Oxford  
Stoke Mandeville Hospital  
Tindal General Hospital

## 6. DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

This service has been recently reorganised and a full-time domestic help organiser and an assistant have been appointed to cover the North Bucks area. The domestic help organiser herself controls Bletchley and surrounding districts.

This service is doing excellent work particularly amongst the aged and chronic sick. One hundred and forty-nine cases were helped during the year.

## SECTION C

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

#### A. WATER.

A pure and wholesome supply has been maintained throughout the district. The Bucks Water Board became the statutory undertakers for this service on April 1st, 1960.

Bacteriological and chemical samples were taken at various periods. No adverse reports were made as to bacteriological condition. A typical report on chemical analysis is as follows :

	Parts per million		
Suspended Solids	Nil	Oxygen consumed from Permanganate	0.032
Dissolved Solids	238.4	PH Value	7.77
Iron (as Fe)	.32	Free CO <sub>2</sub>	3.2
Chloride (as Cl <sub>2</sub> )	15.5	Temporary hardness	11.59
Free Ammonia	0.012	Permanent hardness	6.14
Albuminoid Ammonia	.024		
Nitrate (as N <sub>2</sub> )	Nil		
Nitrite	Nil		

#### B. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The sewage works has functioned satisfactorily. Samples of the effluent are taken regularly. No complaints of pollution have been received.

Sludge has been taken to nearby farms by motor tanker owing to shortage of sludge drying beds, but a special sludge drying apparatus is now in operation.

#### C. RIVERS AND STREAMS

Inspections are made of the few watercourses and ditches in the district. No pollution or flooding has taken place.

#### D. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

A few houses in Drayton Road and elsewhere in isolated places are still without main drainage.

## E. PUBLIC CLEANSING

A weekly refuse collection is maintained in the district. Two large capacity closed vehicles are in use.

Controlled tipping at the Saldon Wood site has continued to be satisfactory.

## F. SHOPS ACT

Administered by the County Council. No contraventions were noted.

## H. SMOKE ABATEMENT

Two complaints were received during the year. Remedial action was taken by the firms concerned.

The forthcoming electrifying of the main London railway line may reduce smoke from the engine sheds.

## I. SWIMMING POOL

The open air swimming pool was again well patronised by some 25,000 people during the summer.

# REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR AND CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH

INSPECTOR, MR. J. F. SMITHIE

The continuing expansion of the town has again been the main work of the surveying and engineering staff.

All public health duties relating to housing, food hygiene, building bye-laws, pest control, etc., as set out below have been carried out by Mr. N. J. Adams. Other departments connected with the well-being of the community are Works and Highways (Mr. G. Heap) and the Housing Department (Mr. T. Holderness, Mr. L. H. Randall).

## PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT ON

### VISITS AND INSPECTIONS IN 1960

Public Health and Housing	Drainage	...	...	178
Acts ... .. 243	Factories Act	...	...	18
Food and Drugs Act ... 281	Refuse disposal	...	...	25
Food Inspection ... .. 59	Rodent control	...	...	43
Butchers' premises ... 40	Infectious diseases	...	...	18
Slaughterhouse ... .. 56	Petroleum Acts	...	...	37
Ice cream premises ... 25	Interviews	...	...	113
Building Byelaws... .. 675	Total Visits and			—
	Inspections	...	...	1811

## SECTION D

### HOUSING

Closing and demolition of unfit houses continued and at the end of 1960 only two unfit dwellings listed in the 1955 report were still occupied. A further survey of the district disclosed 12 more unfit houses which will be dealt with in the coming year.

#### SUMMARY OF HOUSING INSPECTIONS

Total number inspected and revisited under Public Health and Housing Acts ... ..							243
Houses unfit for habitation and due for clearance ... ..							12
Houses not in all respects fit where notices were served ... ..							15
Houses rendered fit by informal action ... ..							37
Statutory notices issued ... ..							2
Houses closed or subject to agreement not to re-let ... ..							Nil

A considerable number of visits were made in connection with overcrowding of houses occupied by foreign workers.

Ninety-four new Council dwellings and one hundred and forty-nine private dwellings were completed during the year

## SECTION E

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

#### 1. TYPES AND NUMBERS OF FOOD PREMISES

Butchers ... ..	13	Cafes ... ..	5
Fish Shops ... ..	5	Public Houses ... ..	21
Bakeries ... ..	2	Milk Retailers ... ..	7
General Food Shops ... ..	40		

2. Number of registered premises (ice-cream, cooked meat, etc.) 51

3. Two hundred and eighty-one inspections and visits were made to all types of food premises. Food condemned amounted to 1,646 lbs. This was disposed of by tipping at the Council's site with other refuse.

#### 4. ICE CREAM

There are no manufacturers in the district using heat treatment. There is one small private manufacturer who obtains excellent results and one large nationally known distribution depot in the town. Twenty-four visits to shops selling ice-cream were made. Eight samples were taken, all of which were placed Grade 1 by the Bedford Public Health Laboratory.

#### 5. FOOD HYGIENE

With the continuing expansion of the town come new and modern shops, well equipped with cold storage rooms, refrigeration and attractive layouts. The general standard of hygiene is satisfactory but once again the storage and disposal of refuse creates untidiness and potential nuisances despite a special trade refuse collection. There were two cases of food poisoning in the year, neither was found to be due to any food bought locally.

#### 6. MEAT

One small private slaughterhouse is licensed for the trade of the shop. The report has been submitted and accepted by the Ministry.

All other butchers obtain their meat from large centres in London, Luton and Northampton.

Inspection of animals slaughtered are detailed overleaf.

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## SECTION F

### FACTORIES ACT

The requisite form of report is attached as an appendix to this report.

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## SECTION G : OTHER DUTIES

**RODENT CONTROL.** The joint area comprising Bletchley U.D.C., Newport U.D.C. and R.D.C., has dealt efficiently with all complaints of rats and mice. A bi-annual sewer treatment revealed a few persistent areas where rats have gained access to sewers and drains, and remedial work was carried out.

**PETROLEUM REGULATIONS.** Thirty-three premises are licensed to store petroleum, in quantities ranging from a few gallons of cellulose to thousands of gallons at filling stations.

The 1960 regulations are in force but it may be another year before all premises and apparatus are brought up to the prescribed standard.



## SECTION H

### PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

#### 1. GENERAL

An outbreak of Dysentery of a mild form occurred in the first quarter of the year.

#### 2. NOTIFICATIONS

Measles	...	...	114	Whooping Cough	...	21
Dysentery	...	...	37	Scarlet Fever	...	27
Pneumonia	...	...	1			

#### 3. TUBERCULOSIS

Seven new cases were notified, two of which were inward transfers. It is gratifying to report that again there were no deaths.

#### 4. CANCER

There were 21 deaths from this disease during the year.

### APPENDIX

*Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.*

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known) ... ..	81	—	—	408	145	—
Number inspected ...	81	—	—	370	120	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	12	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	—	—	—	—	10	—
Tuberculosis only:						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cysticercosis.						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

# Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1937

## PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

<i>Premises</i> (1)	<i>Number on Register</i> (2)	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspections</i> (3)	<i>Written notices</i> (4)	<i>Occupiers prosecuted</i> (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ... ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	57	18	Nil	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total ... ..	57	18		

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found. (If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases".)

Particulars  (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ... ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ... ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	2	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ... ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) ... ..					
(a) Insufficient ... ..					
(b) Unsuitable or de- fective ... ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes ... ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including of- fences relating to Out- work) ... ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total ... ..					



# PART VIII OF THE ACT

## OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110(1)(c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prose- cutions (7)
(1)						
Wearing apparel: Making, etc., Cleaning and Washing	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

